

ER 11-7353-a

Mr. Raymond H. Beck

Dear Mr. Beck:

I very much appreciate your thought-provoking letter of 19 November commenting on my recent presentation to the Subcommittee on Monetary Statistics of the Joint Economic Committee of the Congress.

Your letter gets down to the essentials of the problems facing us today and you raise the important question of the direction economic expansion should take in the United States. As you must realize, however, policy recommendations and domestic affairs are outside of the scope of my responsibilities and, therefore, I cannot comment officially on your question. However, there are a number of reports which have discussed this topic, including a report of the Rockefeller Brothers' Fund, "The Challenge to America: Its Economic and Social Aspects." This paper is readily available through normal channels and you may find the ideas therein of interest.

With best wishes for the holiday season.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

30 Nov 59  
Rewritten: 11 Dec 59

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11-9353/2

Mr. Raymond H. Bock

[Redacted]

Dear Mr. Bock:

Thank you for your letter of 19 November, commenting on my recent presentation to the Subcommittee on Economic Statistics of the Joint Economic Committee of the Congress.

You raise the important question of the direction economic expansion should take in our country. Policy recommendations and domestic affairs are, of course, outside the charter of the Central Intelligence Agency and, therefore, I cannot comment officially on your question. However, there are a number of reports which have discussed this topic, including a report of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, "The Challenge to America: Its Economic and Social Aspects." You may find the ideas in this paper of interest.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

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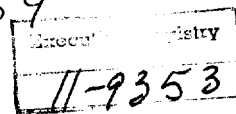
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Nov. 19, 1959



Dear Mr. Dulles:

I note with interest your recent warning to the Joint Economic Committee concerning the industrial progress of the Soviet Union. You feel our industrial growth must be increased at a faster rate.

I hope I do not seem bold in asking what you would have them expand. Certainly we are producing enough automobiles. My home is cluttered with new gadgets which might be done away with. A good one-fourth of our labor force is somewhat connected with the necessity of selling the goods we produce.

I can see a great needs which might require an expansion of our economy. Housing projects to replace city slums, a tremendous growth in schools, parks, roadways, recreation areas, aid to underdeveloped nations — but in your position you are aware of

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the possibilities of getting necessary legislation through Congress and State legislatures which would start these projects rolling.

As a nation we are not in need of more consumer-goods which can be distributed individually to each citizen. We are in need of public works which can be shared collectively by many people. But these propagandists cry "socialism," every time a proposal is made, and such projects usually die an early death.

Do you foresee any great need of Americans which would absorb increased industrial activity (outside of merely providing jobs)? Do you foresee any likelihood of breathtaking national projects such as the Soviets have conceived under our setup of special interest and pressure groups?

Yours very truly,

H. Bock